

REMARKS

Currently, claims 1-8 are pending, with claims 4 and 5 being withdrawn. Claims 1 and 6-8 have been amended. No new matter has been added by these amendments.

Claims 1-3 and 6 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,190,751 to Sylvester (“Sylvester”) in view of U.S. Patent No. to Sellew (“Sellew”). Claims 1-2 and 6-8 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,595,525 to Schmidt (“Schmidt”).

I. Rejection of Claims 1-3 and 6 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection of claims 1-3 and 6 as being unpatentable Sylvester in view of Sellew. As presently amended, claims 1-3 and 6 each call for a sheet of flexible material having at least one lip disposed on at least one edge of the first surface of the sheet and at least one edge of the first surface of the sheet comprising no lip. Neither Sylvester nor Sellew, taken together or alone, disclose, teach or suggest this arrangement. Accordingly, applicant respectfully submits that these claims are patentable over Sylvester and Sellew.

II. Rejection of Claims 1, 2 and 6-8 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e)

Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection of claims 1, 3 and 6-8 as being anticipated by Schmidt. As presently amended, claims 1, 3 and 6-8 each call for a sheet of flexible material having at least one lip disposed on an edge of the sheet and at least one edge of the sheet comprising no lip. Schmidt fails to disclose, teach or suggest this arrangement. Accordingly, applicant respectfully submits that these claims are patentable over Schmidt.

CONCLUSION

Based on the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims and allowance of this application.

AUTHORIZATION

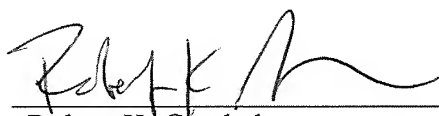
The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required for consideration of this Amendment to Deposit Account No. **13-4500**, Order No. 1948-4821.

In the event that an extension of time is required, or which may be required in addition to that requested in a petition for an extension of time, the Commissioner is requested to grant a petition for that extension of time which is required to make this response timely and is hereby authorized to charge any fee for such an extension of time or credit any overpayment for an extension of time to Deposit Account No. **13-4500**, Order No. 1948-4821.

Respectfully submitted,
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